

H-4001367 REIGATE

BOROUGH OF REIGATE.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

T. H. BINGHAM, M.D., D.P.H.

TOGETHER WITH THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR,

G. JANES, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

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REDHILL:

S. C. JENNINGS & SONS, LTD., PRINTERS.

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†*Temporary Appointment in connection with Government Evacuation Scheme.*

BOROUGH OF REIGATE.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1943.

*To the Chairmen and Members of the Public Health and Maternity
and Child Welfare Committees.*

LADIES and GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1943, which is drawn up on the lines indicated by the Ministry of Health.

For reasons of economy, the Report now submitted is less comprehensive in scope than others in the same series, and is confined to a brief record of the work performed by the public health services, and of important alterations, improvements and developments of these services, in the year under review.

The Ministry of Health has requested that, on grounds of national security, Annual Reports of Medical Officers should not contain complete tables of local populations or quotations from figures supplied by the Registrar-General which may enable any substantial series of local populations to be reconstructed. It is also requested that no reference should be made to activities in connection with wartime industry, military, or other important developments, such as extensions of water supply or sewage works. Due attention has been given to these requests in the preparation of the present Report, from which incidence and mortality rates and the usual extracts from vital statistics have been omitted.

The year 1943 was, on the whole, very favourable from the point of view of the public health. There was no cause of sickness or invalidity in the area that was especially noteworthy, neither was there evidence, statistical or otherwise, of any measurable deterioration in the general standard of health of the civilian

population of the Borough. It is generally accepted that the effects of stress and privation are first apparent in the younger members of the community. It is, therefore, gratifying to record that the standard of nutrition and physique of local and evacuated children examined at school medical inspections, and of children coming under the supervision of the maternity and child welfare service, surpassed any previously attained. In the fourth complete year under war-time conditions, such a finding must be regarded as both satisfactory and reassuring.

The statistical particulars for the year compare favourably with those recorded in the past and with those for towns comparable in size with Reigate. With the exception of measles and influenza, which, following their usual cycle, re-appeared in almost epidemic form after several consecutive years of low prevalence, the incidence of, and mortality from, the commoner infectious diseases were surprisingly low. The same may be said of non-infectious illness, in so far as its prevalence could be ascertained through the medium of the maternity and child welfare, public health and school medical services. The information obtained from such sources does not reveal the existence of any avoidable conditions of occupation or environment that appear to be prejudicial to health.

The increase in the normal functions of the Public Health Department, and the many additional and extraneous duties in connection with Civil Defence, evacuation and other war-time measures, which have devolved upon it in consequence of the war, have placed a heavy additional burden on the staff. I gratefully acknowledge my appreciation of the efficient and cheerful manner in which these additional duties were discharged, without serious detriment to the routine work of the Department.

I am also greatly indebted to the Chairmen and Members of Committees for the support and consideration extended to me throughout the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. H. BINGHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

REIGATE.

26th August, 1944.

SECTION I.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (Land and Inland Water)	..	..	..	10,255 acres
Population, Census 1931 (enlarged Borough)	..			34,547
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1943 according to Rate Books	..	..	..	10,497
Rateable Value (1943)	..	..	..	£424,513
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..		£1,734

Chief Occupations of the Inhabitants.

The most recent official information concerning the numbers of males and females engaged in certain occupations is contained in the Industry Tables compiled from the returns of the 1931 Census.

Extracts from the Industry Tables have been included in recent reports and are not now reproduced, as the changes since the Census was taken, and more especially since the outbreak of war, render them of little value as a statement of the occupations followed by the inhabitants of the district.

TABLE I.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births :—

Legitimate	..	Males	281	Females	284	Total	565
Illegitimate	..	Males	39	Females	35	Total	74

Birth Rate :—

Do.	1942	..	..	..	..	..	16.5
Do.	for the five years 1938 to 1942	..	..	..	..	..	13.6

Still Births :—

Males	..	13	Females	..	8	Total	21
-------	----	----	---------	----	---	-------	----

Rate per 1,000 total births 31.8

Do. do. 1942 26.4

Deaths (nett) :—

Males	..	234	Females	..	275	Total	509
-------	----	-----	---------	----	-----	-------	-----

Do. 1942 :—

Males	..	237	Females	..	259	Total	496
-------	----	-----	---------	----	-----	-------	-----

Death Rate

Do. 1942 12.3

Do. for the five years 1938 to 1942 12.6

Percentage of total deaths occurring in Public Institutions 50.0

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—

			<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births</i>
Puerperal Sepsis	..	..	1	1.51
Other Puerperal Causes	..	..	1	1.51
Total	..	..	2	3.03

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births 45.3

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .. 40.7

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .. 81.0

Deaths from :—

Cancer (all ages) 74

Measles (all ages) 1

Whooping Cough (all ages) 1

Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 1

Population.

Estimates of the numbers and distribution of the non-civilian population are not available, and the various rates for the year are calculated on the Registrar-General's estimate of civilian population resident in the Borough at mid-year 1943.

The Registrar-General's estimate represents a substantial reduction on the corresponding figure for 1942. This must be entirely attributable to migration, as the natural increase in population, or excess of live births over deaths, for the year was 130, which is one of the highest recently observed. It would appear that the Registrar-General has made undue allowance for the return of evacuees to their own homes, as his estimate is very much lower than the figure supplied by the local Registration Officer. The estimate is, therefore, an under-statement of the population, and the various rates for the year, which are calculated on this figure, are correspondingly raised.

Births.

The live births assigned to the area are those registered during the calendar year, adjusted for inward and outward transfers.

The birth rate for the year is calculated on the estimated civilian population, and is the highest recorded in the Borough since 1920. Illegitimate births formed 11.6 per cent. of the total, as compared with 12.2 per cent. in 1942, 9.7 in 1941 and an annual average of 4.8 for the five years 1936 to 1940. The increase in the illegitimate birth rate has created a very serious problem in securing adequate care, under present conditions, for infants whose mothers are unmarried. It has also tended to encourage abuse of the regulations relating to adoption, very often to the detriment of the interests of both mother and child. The extent of the problem may be more readily appreciated if the births are expressed numerically, rather than as a proportion of the total; thus, in the immediate pre-war years, the number of illegitimate births accredited to the Borough did not exceed an average of 25 per annum, as compared with 81 in 1942 and 74 in 1943. The fact that such an increase is not unusual in war-time and is likely to be temporary does not provide a solution of the immediate difficulties to which the increase has given rise.

Infant Mortality.

Twenty-nine infants (15 males and 14 females) died before reaching the age of one year, the majority failing to survive the first month. In 14 instances death was attributed to prematurity, congenital debility or malformation, in 5 to marasmus, in 4 to acute respiratory infections, in 2 to birth injury, in one to acute gastro-enteritis, in one to meningitis, in one to inattention at birth and in one to drowning. The two last named were the subject of a Coroner's Inquest. Nineteen of the deaths occurred in hospitals or private nursing homes ; the remainder were investigated by the health visiting staff.

The infant mortality rate for the year was 45 per thousand live births, which is the same as that for 1942, but is slightly above the annual average in the Borough for the ten years 1933 to 1942. The rate compares favourably with that for England and Wales, which was 49, and that for other towns comparable in size with Reigate, which was 46. Deaths from diarrhoea and enteritis, which figure fairly largely in the national statistics, made comparatively little contribution to the local infant mortality rate.

Deaths.

The numbers of deaths accredited to Reigate include deaths of civilians temporarily resident in the Borough on account of the war, and represent an increase of 13 on the total for 1942.

The increase is reflected in a slight advance in the " crude " or unadjusted death rate, which exceeds the average rate for the ten year period 1933 to 1942. The correction of the " crude " rate, to allow for the adverse influence of unfavourable age and sex distribution on the mortality experienced in the area, produces an " adjusted " rate, which compares very favourably with that for England and Wales as a whole and with the similarly adjusted rate for towns having a resident population of 25,000 to 50,000.

The numbers of deaths assigned to various causes are set out in Table II, and do not indicate unusual or excessive mortality from any particular cause. Influenza, pneumonia, and respiratory forms of tuberculosis made slightly more than their usual contribution to the death rate, while the mortality attributed to other specified causes, and more particularly to diseases of the heart and circulatory system, bronchitis and acute infectious ailments, were somewhat lower than the average for recent years.

TABLE II.

Causes of Death in the Borough of Reigate during 1943.

			<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	TOTAL.
1	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	..	..	..	..
2	Cerebro-spinal Fever ..	..	..	1	1
3	Scarlet fever	..	..	..	..
4	Whooping cough	..	1	..	1
5	Diphtheria ..	..	..	..	..
6	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	..	10	7	17
7	Other forms of tuberculosis	..	1	1	2
8	Syphilitic diseases	..	..	2	2
9	Influenza ..	..	3	10	13
10	Measles ..	..	1	..	1
11	Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	..	..	..	..
12	Acute infective encephalitis	..	..	..	..
13	Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus..	..	1	..	1
13a	Cancer of uterus	..	..	4	4
14	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	..	6	6	12
15	Cancer of breast	..	..	7	7
16	Cancer of all other sites	..	28	22	50
17	Diabetes ..	..	..	2	2
18	Intracranial vascular lesions	..	13	42	55
19	Heart disease	..	71	67	138
20	Other diseases of circulatory system	..	5	8	13
21	Bronchitis ..	..	9	8	17
22	Pneumonia ..	..	10	10	20
23	Other respiratory diseases	..	5	1	6
24	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	3	1	4
25	Diarrhoea, (under 2 years)	..	..	1	1
26	Appendicitis	..	..	1	1
27	Other digestive diseases	..	8	10	18
28	Nephritis ..	..	7	4	11
29	Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	..	..	1	1
30	Other maternal causes	..	..	1	1
31	Premature birth	..	6	6	12
32	Congenital malformation, birth injury and infantile diseases	..	4	3	7
33	Suicide ..	..	3	1	4
34	Road traffic accidents	..	1	1	2
35	Other violent causes	..	7	6	13
36	All other causes	..	31	41	72
TOTALS			234	275	509

SECTION II.

GENERAL PROVISION of HEALTH SERVICES for the AREA. Staff.

Full particulars of the Public Health Officers of the Borough Council are given in the list incorporated at the beginning of this report, including in each case information as to their special diplomas and certificates of qualification.

Laboratory Facilities.

There has been no important alteration in the laboratory facilities in the area, except that fuller use has been made of the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service established at Horsham by the Medical Research Council. The assistance of the latter has been sought chiefly in connection with the examination of specimens from cases of suspected food poisoning.

Nursing in the Home.

Under an agreement made with the Borough Council and at the request of the Medical Officer of Health, the staff of the Reigate and Redhill District Nursing Association undertake the home nursing of selected cases of pneumonia and of certain acute infectious ailments in young children. Assistance is limited to patients who are unfit for removal to hospital and who are unable to make private arrangements for nursing attention.

Ambulance Facilities.

The ambulance service for cases of infectious disease, illness and accident has been described in previous reports, and is adequate for the needs of the district.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

There was no important extension of clinic services during the year, except that additional clinic sessions were held, as and when required, for artificial immunisation against diphtheria.

Hospitals : Public and Voluntary.

The Borough Council has made arrangements for the admission of patients to the Reigate Joint Isolation Hospital and to the East Surrey Hospital. Persons suffering from certain infectious diseases are admitted to the former, and abnormal or complicated maternity cases are admitted to the latter on the recommendation

of the Borough Obstetric Consultant. There is no development or change to record in the services provided by these hospitals during the year.

Maternity Services.

The Maternity Services in the area are, in all respects, similar to those described in previous reports.

Institutional Provision for Mothers or Children.

The only extensions of the arrangements made under this heading were the reservation of accommodation in maternity homes and hospitals for evacuated expectant mothers, and the establishment of hostels for the reception of mothers and children who, for one reason or another, were unacceptable in private billets.

Health Visitors.

For the greater part of the year it was possible to maintain the health visiting staff at its full complement with suitably qualified and trained Health Visitors.

Supply of Insulin.

Under Section 177 of the Public Health Act, 1936, a Local Authority may, with the approval or consent of the Minister of Health, provide a temporary supply of medicine for the poorer inhabitants of their district.

In January, 1943, the Minister gave the necessary approval to enable Local Authorities to supply insulin, free of cost or at a reduced price, to persons for whom provision has not already been made under the National Health Insurance and Poor Law Acts. Local Education Authorities were likewise empowered to make similar provision for elementary school children who are suffering from diabetes, and whose parents are unable to pay the whole cost of the insulin they require.

The Borough Council decided to make the provision authorised by the Minister, and to assess the amount of the patient's contribution to the cost on the income scale already adopted for other public health and maternity and child welfare purposes. Medical practitioners in the district were made aware of the arrangements and of the procedure to be followed in making application for supplies of insulin at reduced rates. The arrangements came into force on 1st March, 1944, and, at the Minister's request, are to continue in operation for the duration of the war.

Nine applications for assistance under the scheme were received and dealt with during the year.

SECTION III.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The whole of the Borough is supplied by the East Surrey Water Company. The water is derived from deep borings in the chalk and is softened, chlorinated, and de-chlorinated before distribution to consumers.

The supply was adequate in quantity throughout the year, the average daily consumption per head of population being about 30 gallons. The quality of the water, as revealed by chemical and bacteriological examination at regular intervals, was invariably reported to be excellent, of a high degree of organic and bacterial purity, and free from metallic contamination.

With the exception of 14 houses, which depend for their water supply on two private wells, all dwellings in the Borough have a continuous and direct supply from the public main.

Alternative sources of water supply were investigated, and arrangements made for their purification and use in the event of extensive damage to the public mains. On grounds of national security it is not permissible to make reference to other activities in connection with extensions of public water supplies.

Drainage and Sewerage : Rivers and Streams : Closet Accommodation.

There is nothing of special importance to report under any of these headings.

Public Cleansing.

Numerous complaints were received during the year of undue delay in the collection of dust-bin refuse from private dwellings in the Borough. These were referred to the Cleansing Superintendent.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

A classified statement of the number of premises visited, the defects or nuisances discovered, and the action and result of action taken in regard to these will be found in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Shops.

Inspections for the purposes of the Shops Act, 1934, were continued during the year, but on a reduced scale owing to war conditions.

Camping Sites.

Two licences were issued by the Local Authority under Section 269, Sub-section (1) (ii) of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Smoke Abatement.

No complaint of smoke nuisance was received.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

The only swimming baths open to the public were the two covered baths owned by the Corporation. Continuous filtration and chlorination of the water in both baths was satisfactorily carried out throughout the season.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

The disinfestation of verminous premises was carried out by the Disinfecting Officer, under the supervision of the Chief Sanitary Inspector. Particulars of Council and other houses found to be infested and dealt with during the year are set out in a later section of this report.

SECTION IV.

HOUSING.

The statistical particulars relating to housing in the area are set out below.

The systematic inspection of houses under the Housing Consolidated Regulations was suspended at the outbreak of war, due partly to difficulties in obtaining labour and material for housing repairs, but mainly owing to the staff being engaged on more urgent work in connection with civil defence, billeting, etc.

The number of dwelling-houses inspected was 126. These were inspected following complaints by the tenants, and the notices which were served informally on the owners in respect of the 62 houses, which were found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, dealt only with the more pressing items of essential repair.

Under Section 62 of the Housing Act, 1936, two certificates, with information relating to 14 houses, were supplied on the application of an owner for the number of persons constituting the "permitted number."

In March, 1943, the Council was requested by the Ministry of Health, in Circular 2778, to review the housing needs of the Borough, so that plans could be made for a one year's building programme to commence as soon as possible after the war. The Council was advised, in a joint report made by the Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Sanitary Inspector, that the post-war programme for the housing of the working-classes must make provision for the following :—

- (a) Re-housing of families from unfit houses ;
- (b) Re-housing of overcrowded families ;
- (c) Re-housing of families from war damaged houses ;
- (d) Erection of houses to meet the shortage caused by stoppage of normal building programme since 1939 ;
- (e) Repair of houses which have received little or no attention since 1939.

The number of unfit dwelling-houses to be demolished would depend, to some extent, on the standard of housing which could be adopted at the end of the war. Such a standard would be influenced by public demand, the availability of building materials and economic conditions generally. Based on pre-war standards, it was estimated that approximately 250 unfit houses should be dealt with, either in clearance areas or individually.

The number of houses likely to be required to abate overcrowding could not at present be estimated, as only a few cases have come to notice. The extent of overcrowding could only be ascertained by a detailed housing survey, which, it was suggested, should be undertaken as soon as circumstances permit.

The Council was also advised that it would be necessary to consider priority of requirements. Unfit houses, it was suggested, should claim first attention, though it would not be possible, or even desirable, to order the demolition of all such houses at the same time. Special reference was made to one area in the Borough comprising many unfit leasehold properties and in which a serious housing problem would soon present itself ; it was urged that immediate consideration should be given to the possibilities of re-planning and re-developing the area in question.

The abatement of the more urgent cases of overcrowding should come next in order of importance, while the re-housing of families rendered homeless by enemy action and the housing of newly-married couples should also take precedence over less urgent housing requirements. The provision of suitable homes for the aged and for persons living alone was regarded as an essential feature of any future housing programme.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	(a)	126
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	(b)	234
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	(a)	Nil
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	(b)	Nil
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation		Nil
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ..		62

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	49
---	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a)	Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :		
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs		Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—		
	(a) By owners		Nil
	(b) By local authority in default of owners ..		Nil
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :		
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied		Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—		
	(a) By owners		Nil
	(b) By local authority in default of owners ..		Nil

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :			
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	.. ..	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	.. ..	Nil
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :			
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	.. ..	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	.. ..	Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV. Overcrowding.

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	.. ..	10
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	.. ..	10
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	.. ..	91
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	.. ..	2
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	.. ..	Nil
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	.. ..	Nil
(d)		Number of dwelling-houses which again became overcrowded after the local authority had taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	.. ..	Nil

SECTION V.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Particulars of the number of persons registered as cow-keepers, dairymen and retail purveyors of milk, and of alterations made in the Registers during the year are set out in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Tuberculin tested milk is produced at two farms in the Borough and Accredited milk at nine. Samples of milk were taken at these farms at frequent intervals by officers of the County Council and, with four exceptions, were reported to be satisfactory.

Veterinary Inspectors of the Ministry of Agriculture reported the action taken by them under the Tuberculosis Order of 1938 in relation to 5 cows in the Borough.

The procedure followed in the sampling of milk is in all respects similar to that described in previous reports. One hundred and five samples (including fourteen of Pasteurised milk) were submitted to bacteriological examination, with the results set out in Table III.

The eight samples which were proved on bacteriological examination to contain tubercle bacilli involved four dairy herds. The results were reported to the Divisional Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, through the County Medical Officer, but the investigations which were carried out by the Inspector failed to discover the animals responsible for the infection.

TABLE III.
RESULTS OF BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.
1. METHYLENE BLUE REDUCTION TEST, ETC.
(a) Untreated Milk.

No. of Samples.	Methylene Blue Test.		Coliform Test.		Within Accredited Standard.	
	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	No.	%
91	74	17	74	17	74	81.32

(b) Pasteurised Milk.

No. of Samples.	Below 100,000 bacteria per millilitre.		More than 100,000 bacteria per millilitre.		Phosphatase Test	
	B. Coli +	B. Coli —	B. Coli +	B. Coli —	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
14	—	12	2	—	13	1

2. BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

No. of Samples.	Tubercle Bacilli +	% Tubercle Bacilli +
83	8	9.64

Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938.

Licences, as under, for the sale of designated milk were granted to 4 retailers in the area :—

Tuberculin Tested	..	..	..	..	4
Tuberculin Tested—bottling licence	..	..	..	..	2
Pasteuriser's licence	..	..	..	..	1
Pasteurised (Supplementary)	..	..	..	..	1

Meat and Other Foods.

The action taken under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, is described in the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, which also includes an account of unsound food destroyed and particulars of inspections of premises where food is prepared.

Adulteration, Etc.

No special action was necessary under the Artificial Cream Act, 1929, the Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations, 1923 and 1927, nor under the Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923 and 1927.

All articles submitted to the Analyst were examined for the presence of preservatives in accordance with the Public Health (Preservatives, etc. in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1939, but no infringement of the Regulations was reported.

The action taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, is described in the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

Samples for chemical analysis are sent to the Council's Analyst Mr. E. Hinks, B.Sc., F.I.C., and samples of milk for bacteriological examination to the Clinical Research Association, Limited. Bacteriological examination of other kinds of food was not called for during the year.

Shell-fish (Molluscan).

There are no shell-fish beds or layings in the district. The shell-fish on sale locally are obtained from the London Markets, so that no information is available as to the layings from which the shell-fish are derived.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934, nor under the Public Health (Cleansing of Shell-fish) Act, 1932.

SECTION VI.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Provision of Isolation Hospital Accommodation.

The arrangements made for the isolation in hospital of the infectious sick have not been altered and are fully described in recent reports.

Notwithstanding the increase in the number of cases of measles, chicken-pox and other infections recommended for admission to hospital during the year, it was not found necessary to operate the scheme for mutual assistance already agreed with neighbouring isolation hospital authorities.

On several occasions there was difficulty and delay in securing the admission of infectious persons to the Reigate Joint Isolation Hospital, usually because of shortage of nursing staff. It does not appear to be clearly understood that, in such circumstances, it is the duty of the Hospital Authorities to secure suitable accommodation for the patient elsewhere, under the reciprocal arrangements already in force.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

The action taken on receipt of a notification that a person is suffering from an infectious disease is fully described in previous reports.

The exclusion from school of infected persons and contacts is carried out in accordance with the suggestions contained in the joint Memorandum issued in 1927 by the Ministry of Health and Board of Education, and amended in August, 1942.

Table IV shows the number of the various notifiable infectious diseases (other than tuberculosis) recorded in the area during the fifty-two weeks ended 1st January, 1944, classified according to the age of the patient, together with the numbers of cases removed to hospital, and the total deaths from each disease. The prevalence of the various diseases is reviewed below.

Small-pox.

No case of small-pox was notified in the Borough during the year.

The Medical Officer of Health did not perform any primary vaccination or re-vaccination under the Public Health (Small-pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

TABLE IV.
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1943.

Disease	Cases notified in Age Periods											Totals	Total cases removed to hospital	Total Deaths.
	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over		
Scarlet Fever ..	—	3	2	8	3	58	10	7	5	3	2	—	79	—
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	—	2	1	—	—	7	—
Puerperal Pyrexia..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	12	—	—	—	11	—
Pneumonia ..	—	1	1	—	—	6	2	1	8	3	10	6	12	20
Ophthalmia Neon- atorum ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
Dysentery ..	—	—	1	—	1	3	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—
Whooping Cough ..	5	7	11	4	9	40	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Measles ..	7	24	24	31	36	160	19	5	13	1	2	—	27	1
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	4	4	1
Totals ..	14	35	39	46	49	269	36	15	41	8	16	10	138	24

Scarlet Fever.

The prevalence of scarlet fever was substantially higher than in recent years. A total of 101 cases were officially notified, as compared with an annual average of 67 in the period 1933 to 1942. It is improbable that the notified cases represent the full extent of the outbreak, as 38 suspected and non-notified cases, many of whom were undoubtedly suffering from typical scarlet fever, were admitted to the local Isolation Hospital for observation. Furthermore, there was reason to believe that a considerable, but unknown, number of mild and unrecognised cases were treated at home by their parents, and so escaped notification.

The age-group distribution was roughly similar to that usually observed, the greatest prevalence being amongst persons between the ages of 5 and 15 years. The seasonal incidence was somewhat unusual, in that several cases were notified in each month of the year, and from widely separated localities; there was, however, an upward trend to a peak of maximum prevalence in October and November, when the disease was mainly confined to the Redhill district.

The prevalence of scarlet fever in the Borough over a long period of years has followed a fairly well defined cycle, a year of high incidence being succeeded by five or six in which cases of the disease have been relatively infrequent. The last major outbreak, in which 169 cases were notified, occurred in 1935 and the Spring of 1936. The increase expected in 1942 did not take place, but appeared to be delayed until the latter part of the year under review. Other epidemiological features of importance were:—
(a) the mildness of the prevailing type of infection; (b) the relatively low incidence in residential institutions; and (c) the frequency with which two or more members of the same household were almost simultaneously affected.

Prevention of spread of infection was rendered extremely difficult by the large number of abortive and missed cases, the nature of which could not be recognised until convalescence was well established, and by the wide range of contact of infectious persons. Further difficulty was created by the premature discharge from hospital of convalescent patients, at least nine of whom gave rise to further cases in the households to which they had been discharged. This represents an unduly high return case rate, and may be closely related to the curtailed period of hospital isolation imposed in many instances.

Diphtheria.

There were seven notifications of diphtheria, of which three related to children undergoing treatment in general hospitals. The latter, which were non-borough cases, did not present any clinical evidence of the disease, but were found to be carriers of diphtheria organisms. Seven other persons were removed from general hospitals and residential institutions for the same reason. It is noteworthy that not a single case of diphtheria was reported amongst children attending elementary schools in the Borough.

The notified cases and carriers were admitted to the Reigate Joint Hospital, in addition to four suspected cases in which a diagnosis of diphtheria was not subsequently confirmed. So far as could be ascertained, none of the clinical cases had been artificially immunised against the disease.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin.

The arrangements for the supply of anti-diphtheritic serum have not been altered and are fully described in previous reports. No request for serum was received during the year.

Schick Testing and Artificial Immunisation against Diphtheria.

The work carried out at the Council's Clinics during the year is summarised as follows :—

Number of persons Schick tested	..	3 (1)
Number giving positive reaction	..	3
Percentage giving positive reaction	..	100%

Number of persons re-tested	..	16 (10)
Number giving negative reaction	..	14 (10)
Percentage giving negative reaction	..	92.3%

Number of persons completely immunised :—

Pre-school children	406
School children	292 (19)
Others	19 (14)

Total	..	717 (33)
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Number of persons partially immunised :—

Pre-school children	117 (5)
School children	207 (11)
Others	45 (10)

Total	..	369 (26)
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Total number of inoculations given . . . 2,784

Prophylactic used—Toxoid Anti-toxin Floccules.

(The figures in brackets are additional and relate to evacuated children).

It is estimated that at least 61.2 per cent. of children in the area under the age of five years, and 51.4 per cent. of those between the ages of five and fifteen years, had completed the full course of immunisation at the end of 1943. These figures may be regarded as very satisfactory, more especially as they do not include immunisation carried out at the large residential institutions in the Borough or by private medical practitioners, of which complete records are not available.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

The 13 cases of puerperal pyrexia notified during the year included 11 under treatment in the Redhill County Hospital and two in private nursing homes. Only four of the notifications related to women normally resident in the Borough.

Pneumonia.

The incidence of pneumonia, as judged by the number of cases notified, was very much lower than the average. Of the 38 notified cases, 15 were treated in hospitals or nursing homes, the remainder being isolated and treated in their own homes. Most of the latter were investigated by the Health Visitors to ascertain if skilled nursing assistance were required, and to give general advice with regard to isolation. Unusual features were the very small number of cases occurring amongst young infants and of cases in which the disease was associated with influenza.

Twenty deaths were attributed to pneumonia. Although this does not represent an unduly high mortality from this cause, it would appear to be excessive in relation to the total number of cases notified. The inference is that a considerable number of cases escaped notification: in support of this it may be stated that most of the fatal cases had not been officially notified.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Two infants were notified as suffering from purulent discharge from the eyes within 21 days of birth. Both were out-borough cases treated in the Redhill County Hospital, and recovered without permanent injury to the eyes or impairment of vision.

Cerebro-spinal Fever.

Two young infants were removed from a hostel for evacuees to the Redhill County Hospital with a diagnosis of cerebro-spinal meningitis, which was subsequently confirmed bacteriologically. There was presumptive evidence that the infection had been contracted in another district, and that the second case had been infected by the first. The other inmates of the hostel were kept under close supervision, but no further case of the disease occurred.

The one death attributed to cerebro-spinal fever was of an un-notified case treated in the East Surrey Hospital.

Dysentery.

Seven persons were notified to be suffering from bacillary dysentery of Sonne type. Three were inmates of a hostel and one was a patient admitted to the East Surrey Hospital for investigation. Although the dates of onset of symptoms were consistent with infection from a common source, no connection between the cases, excepting those at the hostel, could be traced. All recovered satisfactorily.

Whooping Cough.

There was slight increase in the prevalence of whooping cough, of which a total of 80 cases were officially notified. To these should be added six un-notified cases, which were removed to hospital from hostels and other premises in which they could not be isolated satisfactorily.

Apart from a small outbreak, involving ten cases, in a residential school in January and February, most of the cases occurred in the last three months of the year. Contrary to previous experience, relatively few cases were notified amongst elementary school children, the heaviest incidence being in infants under school age. One of the cases, in which the disease was complicated by broncho-pneumonia, terminated fatally.

The home treated cases were investigated by the Health Visitors with a view to the provision of skilled nursing assistance, where it appeared to be necessary.

Measles.

There was a fairly extensive outbreak of measles in the first six months of the year, when the disease invaded almost every district in the Borough. The incidence was, as usual, heaviest amongst children in the younger age groups, but cases amongst adults were not infrequently reported.

Twenty-seven notified cases were admitted to the Reigate Joint Hospital, together with forty-two suspected cases from hostels, children's homes and other residential institutions, in which adequate isolation could not be enforced. Two hundred and eighty-eight of the remaining cases were investigated by the Health Visiting staff, who gave advice with regard to isolation and the precautions to be observed to prevent spread of infection.

The disease appeared to be mild in type and relatively free from serious complications and sequelae. The only death attributable to measles was of a young infant undergoing treatment in the Reigate Joint Hospital and in whom the infection was complicated by acute gastro-enteritis. Prophylactic serum was not extensively used for the prevention or attenuation of measles, and was supplied to only one medical practitioner for the partial immunisation of susceptible contacts.

Erysipelas.

Three cases of erysipelas were notified from the Redhill County Hospital and three from private dwellings. One of the latter was subsequently admitted to hospital for the purpose of treatment. One death was certified to be due to erysipelas.

Tuberculosis.

Thirty-five new cases of tuberculosis of the lungs and eleven of tuberculosis of other organs were reported during the year. Thirty-seven were cases notified for the first time, eight were reported by the County Medical Officer on transference from other districts in which they had already been notified, and one became known through the Returns of the Registrar-General.

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis which came to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year are set out in Table V, together with an analysis of the deaths in the area from this disease during the same period.

The number of new cases of tuberculosis of the lungs represents a rate of incidence considerably above the annual average for the past ten years. Practically the whole of the increase is due to the greater number of cases discovered amongst women between the ages of 25 and 35 years. In a relatively small series of cases it would be misleading to venture upon any generalisation regarding the possible factors to which this increase may be attributable. It will not be disputed, however, that women, in particular, have been subjected to considerable physical and mental strain because of the war ; this, in as far as it tends to lower individual resistance to infection, may predispose to the onset of tuberculosis.

The greater prevalence of respiratory tuberculosis has been associated with a higher mortality than any recently experienced from this form of the disease. Most of the deaths were of persons over middle-age, the sexes sharing almost equally in the increase. In this connection it may be noted that old-standing cases temporarily resident in the Borough because of the war are included in local statistics ; the inclusion of such cases would tend to raise the incidence and mortality rates for the Borough.

Non-respiratory tuberculosis, on the other hand, has exhibited no increase in prevalence. In fact, the incidence rate for the year is the lowest observed since the outbreak of war. In many of these cases the infection is derived from bovine sources, and it is not surprising, therefore, that prevalence is greatest in the younger age-groups, in which milk is most likely to be the vehicle of infection. Proposed legislation designed to ensure compulsory and efficient pasteurisation of milk supplies will undoubtedly lead to marked reduction in the prevalence of non-respiratory forms of tuberculosis.

TABLE V.

New Cases of Tuberculosis, and all Deaths from the Disease in the Area during 1943, classified according to Age, Sex and Type of Disease.

<i>Age Periods</i>			NEW CASES				DEATHS			
			<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>		<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	...	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
1-5 years	...	...	1	-	3	1	-	-	1	-
5-15 "	...	...	1	3	1	1	-	-	-	-
15-25 "	...	...	3	4	1	1	-	2	-	-
25-35 "	...	...	4	7	-	1	-	2	-	-
35-45 "	...	...	4	1	1	-	1	3	-	-
45-55 "	...	...	2	3	1	-	1	-	-	-
55-65 "	...	...	2	-	-	-	7	-	-	-
65 & upwards	...	...	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	...	...	17	18	7	4	10	7	1	1

A register is kept of the names, addresses and other particulars relating to known cases of tuberculosis. At the end of the year there remained on the Register the names of 173 persons, of whom 111 (48 males, 63 females), were suffering from respiratory tuberculosis, and 62 (35 males, 27 females), from tuberculosis of other organs.

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade), nor under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

The voluntary Tuberculosis Care Committee, which was formed in 1935 to work in association with the Tuberculosis Dispensary at Redhill, operated very satisfactorily during the year. On many occasions the Committee was able to provide assistance, other than medical treatment, for tuberculous persons and their families, and to secure suitable employment for patients discharged from sanatoria.

Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases.

Scabies.

There was a slight reduction in the prevalence of scabies, of which a total of 471 definite and suspected cases were treated by the Council's staff during the year. Of these, 398 (including 40 amongst evacuees) were dealt with at the Redhill Public Baths and at the Health Centre, and the remainder, which included 4 cases from local military units, at the Disinfecting Station. The suspected cases comprised a considerable number of home contacts, who did not present any recognisable symptoms of scabies, but were nevertheless required to undergo cleansing as a precautionary measure.

The modern treatment by benzyl benzoate was adopted in every case and proved to be highly efficacious, the majority of cases being pronounced free from infection within 24 hours of the institution of treatment. No instance of recurrence after treatment was reported, and very few of skin reaction due to the application of benzyl benzoate. On very few occasions was it necessary to exercise the emergency powers conferred by the Scabies Order, 1941, to secure the examination and treatment of infected persons.

Special mention should be made of the invaluable assistance given by members of local detachments of the British Red Cross Society, who undertook the cleansing of cases at the Public Baths at Redhill, and by the Disinfecting Officer, who dealt very promptly with infected bedding and clothing.

Food Poisoning.

One small outbreak of suspected food poisoning was investigated during the year. The persons affected were members of the same household, who developed symptoms of acute gastro-enteritis about one hour after the ingestion of tinned meat. The illness was of short duration and ended in complete recovery.

Examination of unconsumed portions of the suspected meat revealed evidence of unsoundness, due to erosion of the tin by rust, but none of contamination by organisms of the recognised food poisoning groups. An inspection of the stock held by the retailer from whom the meat was purchased led to the discovery of ten tins of the same product in faulty condition and which were surrendered for destruction.

Other Diseases.

The other infectious and contagious diseases reported included, chicken pox (74 cases), mumps (65 cases), infective conjunctivitis (36 cases), impetigo (16 cases), ringworm of the scalp (14 cases) and german measles (5 cases).

Several cases of jaundice, which was thought to be infective in origin, were reported during the year, but full particulars of these are not available.

Disinfection.

There are facilities at the Disinfecting Station for the cleansing of verminous persons and their belongings. No case of this nature was referred to the Station during the year, but several were satisfactorily cleansed at the Health Centre. Most of these were of heavy infestation by head lice and their ova, for which the use of Lethane Oil was found to be highly efficacious, more especially in the cleansing of members of the Women's Services.

Bacteriological Work.

The bacteriological examination of specimens for medical practitioners in connection with infectious disease is carried out by the Pathologist at the East Surrey Hospital. Specimens may also be sent to the Counties Public Health Laboratories in London.

The following specimens were examined during the year with the results indicated :—

A. SWABS EXAMINED FOR THE PRESENCE OF :—

(a) *Diphtheria bacillus* :—

(i) Swabs from throat :—	Result		Total
	Positive	Negative	
From suspected cases of diphtheria	7	107	114
From contacts of diphtheria ..	2	73	75
(ii) Swabs from nose :—			
From suspected cases of diphtheria	—	26	26
From contacts of diphtheria ..	—	18	18
(iii) Swabs from ear :—			
From suspected cases of diphtheria	—	9	9
(iv) Swab from cervix uteri :—			
From suspected case of diphtheria ..	—	1	1

(b) *Other Pathogenic Organisms* :—

(i) Swabs from throat	37	162	199
(ii) Swabs from nose	2	17	19
(iii) Swabs from ear	—	9	9
(iv) Swabs from cervix uteri	1	1	2
(v) Swabs from vagina	—	4	4

B. SPUTUM EXAMINED FOR THE PRESENCE OF :—

The Tubercle Bacillus :—

(i) From suspected cases	2	19	21
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C. BLOOD EXAMINED FOR :—

(a) Widal Reaction	—	2	2
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D. FÆCES EXAMINED FOR THE PRESENCE OF :—

(a) B. Dysenteriae (Sonne)	6	12	18
(b) B. Paratyphosus B.	—	2	2

E. CEREBRO SPINAL FLUID EXAMINED FOR THE PRESENCE OF :—

(a) Meningococci	—	1	1
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SECTION VII.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The services provided under the Council's Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme are, in most respects, similar to those described in previous reports, and operated satisfactorily throughout the year.

The most noteworthy addition to these services was the establishment of a Wartime Nursery at Ashbury House at South Park, for the convenience of mothers living or working in that district. Other possible and necessary developments should include the provision of clinic facilities at Earlswood, which is to be considered in connection with post-war reconstruction, and extension of the existing arrangements for the care of illegitimate infants. A scheme for the routine dental inspection of children under school age is at present under consideration.

The attendances at the various clinics during the year are briefly summarised in the tables that follow. The figures in brackets are additional and relate to persons temporarily resident in the Borough on account of the war.

TABLE VI.

PARTICULARS OF ATTENDANCES AT ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINICS DURING THE YEAR 1943.

			<i>Health Centre.</i>	<i>South Park.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Ante-Natal.					
Number of sessions held	..	..	43	11	54
Number of Attendances :—					
(a) Primary	..	..	83	15	98
(b) Subsequent	..	..	173 (1)	31	205
Average attendance per session	..	..	6	4	6
Individual patients attending	..	..	108 (1)	28	137
Post-Natal.					
Number of sessions held	..	..	12	7	19
Number of Attendances :—					
(a) Primary	..	..	19	5	24
(b) Subsequent	..	..	3	2	5
Individual patients attending	..	..	19	6	25
Birth Control.					
Number of sessions held	..	..	12	—	12
Total attendances :—					
(a) Primary	..	..	15	—	15
(b) Subsequent	..	..	17	—	17
Individual patients attending	..	..	23	—	23
Number of patients not eligible for assistance	..	..	1	—	1

The figures in the foregoing Table represent a decrease in the total number of patients attending the Ante-natal Clinics. This is probably explained by the greater demand for admission to hospitals and maternity homes, at which arrangements are made for ante-natal supervision.

The number of attendances and of individuals attending the Post-natal Clinics show an encouraging increase on the corresponding figures for 1942. This aspect of maternal welfare work is no less important than ante-natal supervision, but its value is not sufficiently recognised by the majority of maternity patients. It is the duty of the midwife and, to a lesser extent, of the Health Visitor to impress the need for post-natal examination as a means of detecting abnormalities which, if neglected, may give rise to varying degrees of disability and even to chronic invalidism.

Domiciliary Supervision.

Expectant mothers were supervised in their homes by the Health Visitors, who made a total of 413 visits to 292 expectant mothers, including 186 visits to 151 patients not in attendance at the Council's Ante-natal Clinics. Most of the latter came to notice through the co-operation of the medical staff of the Redhill County Hospital.

Obstetric Consultant.

Four cases of obstetrical emergency occurring in private practice were examined by the Borough Obstetric Consultant at the request of the medical practitioners in attendance.

One was admitted to the Redhill County Hospital and three to private nursing homes, where they gave birth to live infants.

Midwifery and Nursing Provision.

The Borough Council paid the agreed contribution to the Reigate and Redhill District Nursing Association in respect of 78 midwifery cases and 88 maternity nursing cases. The staff of this Association did not undertake the nursing of any cases of infectious disease under the arrangement made by the Council.

Hospital and Nursing Home Provision.

The Borough Council was not called upon to contribute towards the cost of maintenance and treatment of patients admitted to the East Surrey Hospital, under the Borough Council's scheme, on account of abnormality or complication arising during pregnancy, labour or the puerperium.

Maternal Mortality.

Two of the deaths accredited to the area were associated with pregnancy and child-bearing. In one case, pregnancy was complicated by severe organic heart disease, and in the other by puerperal infection following delivery. Both cases were under treatment in the Redhill County Hospital.

The maternal mortality rate for the year was, therefore, 3.03 per thousand total (*i.e.*, live and still) births, which is somewhat above the annual average for the Borough.

Births.

Particulars of live births recorded in the area during the year are as follows :—

		<i>Borough residents.</i>	<i>Non- residents.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Notified by doctors	..	335	229	564
Notified by midwives	..	243	523	766
Notified by Registrar	..	24	16	40
		—	—	—
Total	..	602	768	1370
		—	—	—

One thousand, three hundred and thirty births, or 97.08% of the total, were officially notified, the remainder being reported to the Public Health Department by the local Registrar.

The nett live births accredited to the area by the Registrar-General were 639, of which 565 were legitimate and 74 illegitimate.

Still-births.

Still-births in the area during the year were notified as follows—

		<i>Borough residents.</i>	<i>Non- residents.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Notified by doctors	..	11	9	20
Notified by midwives	..	8	24	32
Notified by Registrar	..	1	1	2
		—	—	—
Total ..	..	20	34	54
		—	—	—

The nett still-births assigned to the area by the Registrar-General were 21, of which 13 were of males and 8 of females. This is equivalent to a rate of 31.81 per 1,000 total births, and approximates to the annual average for the Borough.

TABLE VII.

PARTICULARS OF ATTENDANCES AT INFANT WELFARE CLINICS
DURING THE YEAR 1943.

	<i>Health Centre.</i>	<i>South Park.</i>	<i>Merstham.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Number of Sessions held ..	84	96	45	225
Average attendance per Session	43	36	28	37
Number of children who attended during the year and who, at the end of the year, were :—				
Under 1 year of age ..	157 (2)	77 (1)	40	274 (3)
Between the ages of 1 and 5 years	390 (18)	270 (14)	116 (3)	776 (35)
Total	547 (20)	347 (15)	156 (3)	1050 (38)
Number of children who attended for the first time during the year and who, on the date of their first attendance, were :—				
Under 1 year of age ...	179 (2)	96 (2)	59 (1)	334 (5)
1—2 years	25	9	—	34
2—3 „	22 (1)	7	6	35 (1)
3—4 „	17 (3)	4	2	23 (3)
4—5 „	16 (2)	5	4	25 (2)
Total	259 (8)	121 (2)	71 (1)	451 (11)
Total attendances by children :—				
Under 1 year	2042 (46)	1667 (41)	806 (2)	4515 (89)
1—5 years	1430 (61)	1662 (72)	454 (2)	3546 (135)
Total	3472 (107)	3329 (113)	1260 (4)	8061 (224)

The total attendances at the Infant Welfare Clinics show increases of roughly one thousand and two thousand over those for 1942 and 1941 respectively. All three Clinics shared in the increase, which was most marked in the case of the newly-established Clinic at Merstham. There was also an increase of seventy in the number of individual children brought to the Clinics during the year.

The number of primary visits by children under the age of twelve months is equivalent to 53 per cent. of the live births accredited to the area. This is not an unsatisfactory proportion, having regard to present day conditions, and to the relatively large number of well-to-do parents who are able to make private arrangements for the medical supervision of their infants.

Minor Ailments Clinics.

The conditions treated were as follows :—

				<i>Cases.</i>	<i>Attendances.</i>
Minor eye defects	..	..	..	12	42
Minor ear defects..	..	..	..	1	1
Impetigo ..	..	..	..	2	3
Other skin diseases	..	..	..	11 (2)	16 (2)
Septic sores	..	..	..	7	29
Minor injuries	..	..	..	2	5
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	17	21
Total ..				52 (2)	117 (2)

Ophthalmic Clinic.

The following is a summary of the cases treated at the Ophthalmic Clinic during the year :—

Number of new cases referred for examination ..	..	14
Number for whom glasses prescribed ..	..	7
Number for whom glasses were obtained ..	..	7
Received other forms of treatment ..	..	11
Advised observation only ..	..	5
Number of old cases re-examined ..	..	5
Verification of glasses ..	..	7
Total attendances ..	..	24

The new cases included one of bi-lateral congenital cataract, which was referred to a special hospital for operative treatment.

Dental Clinics.

Dental treatment is provided for expectant mothers, nursing mothers and pre-school children who are in regular attendance at the various clinics, and who are specially referred to the Dental Surgeon by the doctor conducting the clinic.

The following is a summary of the work of the Dental Clinics for the year :—

Number of sessions devoted to inspection and				
	treatment			43
„	„ expectant mothers treated			31
„	„ nursing „ „			26
„	„ pre-school children „			52
„	„ extractions :—			
	Temporary teeth		73	
	Permanent teeth		328	
			—	401
„	„ fillings			78
„	„ other operations			279
„	„ general anaesthetics for extraction			59
„	„ local „ „ „			13
„	„ patients supplied with dentures			24
Dentures supplied——complete plates				35
	partial			9
Total attendances :—				
	Mothers		291	
	Children *		142	
			—	433

Child Life Protection.

The following particulars are taken from the Register of Foster-children :—

Number of foster-children on Register at the beginning				
	of the year			57
„	added to the Register during the year			130
„	removed from the Register :—			
	On reaching the age of nine years		—	
„	leaving the district		54	
„	returning to parents		65	
„	death		—	
			—	119
„	of foster-children on Register at the end of			
	the year			68
„	of approved foster-mothers in the district			26
Visits to foster-children				790

No serious breach of the regulations relating to foster children was discovered during the year, nor was legal action necessary by the Welfare Authority for the removal of any child from unsuitable premises or from the care of unsatisfactory foster parents.

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children instituted proceedings against a registered foster mother for alleged assault upon a foster child in her care and for failure to provide necessary medical treatment. A conviction was recorded in respect of the first charge, but the second was dismissed. The Juvenile Court subsequently refused to grant an application by the Society for the removal of the child from the care of the foster mother concerned.

The matter was formally reported to the Borough Council and, after full consideration of all the circumstances, it was decided that the foster mother in question should not be prohibited from receiving foster children, provided that she continued to observe the conditions and restrictions already imposed by the Council.

Adoption of Children (Regulation) Act, 1939.

The above-named Act came into operation on 1st June, 1943. It is a requirement of Section 7 of the Act that private individuals, other than parents or guardians, who participate in the arrangements for the placing of children for adoption shall give written notice to the Welfare Authority of the area in which the child is to be placed.

Four notices under this Section were received during the year. In every case, the Child Protection Visitor and the Chief Sanitary Inspector reported that the prospective adopters were fit and proper persons to have the care of young children and that the premises in which the children were to be received were, in all respects, highly satisfactory. The children, after placing with the prospective adopters, were kept under regular supervision by the health visiting staff.

Domiciliary Visits.

The number of visits paid by the Health Visitors during the year are set out in the following summary :—

Expectant mothers :—			
Primary Visits	..	..	267 (1)
Subsequent Visits	..	..	144 (1)
			————— 411 (2)

Infants under 12 months :—				
Primary Visits	..	..	651 (4)	
Subsequent Visits	..	..	1,439 (8)	
			<hr/>	2,090 (12)
Children aged 1—5 years :—				
Total visits	..	..	..	3,078 (11)
Foster-children :—				
Total visits	..	..	..	790
Visits to cases of infectious disease :—				
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum		..	—	
Pneumonia	..	..	15	
Diphtheria	}	..	3	
Scarlet Fever		..	29	
Whooping Cough		..	78	
Measles ..		in infants under 5 years of age	148 (1)	
Mumps			16	
Chicken Pox			13	
			<hr/>	302 (1)
Visits to :—				
Still births	..	..	20	
Infant deaths	..	..	12	
			—	32
Other visits	..	..	..	1,097 (1)
			<hr/>	
Grand Total	..	..	..	7,800 (27)
			<hr/>	

War-time Nurseries.

A War-time Nursery for the accommodation of 40 children under the age of 5 years was erected at the rear of Cromwell Road School and was opened in November, 1942. Within a few weeks it was found necessary to extend the nursery facilities thus provided. A class-room and a cloak-room in Cromwell Road School were accordingly adapted for use as an annexe to the Nursery, thereby increasing the total accommodation by 15 places.

The extended Nursery at Cromwell Road was unable to accept all eligible applicants for admission, and it was, therefore, decided to establish a second Nursery elsewhere. The Committee were fortunate in being able to acquire Ashbury House in South Park, which provided a delightful and convenient setting for a nursery and could readily be adapted for the purpose. The premises

were converted and equipped by September, 1943, when Ashbury House was opened as a Nursery to accommodate a maximum of 40 children.

All applicants were medically examined before admission to the Nurseries, the total number of examinations made for this purpose being 114. On the whole, the physical standard of the children examined was very much higher than formerly, and it was rarely necessary to refuse or postpone the admission of a child for medical reasons. The average attendance at both Nurseries was extremely good and, contrary to expectation, the incidence of infectious and contagious disease was surprisingly low, having regard to the unusual degree of susceptibility of the children in attendance.

It was stated a year ago that the skilled care, ordered routine and scientific feeding at the Nursery had produced very marked improvement in the physical condition of the children, while the influence of nursery life on character training and healthy mental development had been no less striking. The experience gained since that time amply confirms this statement and supports the view that nursery facilities for carefully selected cases must form an essential feature of any future scheme for the welfare of young children.

During the year the War-time Nurseries in the Borough were affiliated to The National Society of Children's Nurseries and were approved as training centres for Parts I and II of the Nursery Nurses' Diploma. This has tended to improve the quality of the staff, by attracting suitable applicants for training, though the practical and theoretical instruction of candidates for the Diploma has imposed a very heavy burden on the matron of the Nursery and her deputy.

BOROUGH OF REIGATE.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the Year 1943.

Public Health Department,

Town Hall, REIGATE.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I submit herewith my Tenth Annual Report on the work of the Sanitary Inspectors.

Although much of the Inspectors' time was taken up in 1943 with the inspection of meat and other foodstuffs at the slaughter-houses, food stores, shops, etc., circumstances permitted more attention than in previous war years being paid to routine work other than the inspection of houses.

The importance of rat and mice destruction was stressed by the work which followed the operation of the Infestation Order, 1943, and the Committee's attention is drawn to the detailed report under that heading on page 54.

The report does not include any account of duties carried out in connection with Civil Defence, e.g., decontamination of clothing and the treatment and disposal of contaminated foodstuffs. It has also been curtailed owing to the need for economy in paper.

I take this opportunity of recording the willing co-operation of my colleagues and my thanks to Dr. Bingham, Medical Officer of Health, for his help and advice in a year which presented many problems and difficulties.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. JANES,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Infectious Diseases, Disinfection and Disinfestation.

During the year, 228 visits of enquiry were made in connection with infectious disease. One hundred and twenty-three library books were disinfected by formalin vapour and returned to the libraries from which they had been borrowed.

The Table on page 44 shows in detail the work carried out by the Disinfecting Officer in connection with disinfection and disinfestation.

During the year 18 houses were disinfested owing to the presence of bugs, and of these 5 houses were owned by the Corporation. Four houses infested by fleas and 2 by cockroaches were also dealt with.

DETAIL OF WORK CARRIED OUT AT CORPORATION STEAM DISINFECTING STATION

	BEDDING.				CLOTHING, FURNISHINGS, etc.				Total. 1943.	Total. 1942.	Verminous Persons Cleansed.		Infected Rooms.	Ambulances and Hackney Carriages.	School Dormitories.	Hospital Wards.	Police Cells.
											1943	1942					
	Beds.	Mattresses, etc.	Bolsters and Pillows.	Sheets, etc.	Carpets, Rugs, etc.	Curtains, Towels, etc.	Clothing.	Other Articles.									
REIGATE BOROUGH																	
Notifiable Diseases	5	33	75	145	4	36	71	60	429	1007	-	-	43	-	2	-	-
Other Diseases ..	-	2	4	-	-	1	-	2	9	212	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vermin—Scabies	9	39	118	430	-	32	1099	135	1862	5601	-	66	-	-	-	-	-
—Bugs ..	17	19	74	82	13	34	116	80	435	372	-	-	33	-	-	-	-
—Lice ..	-	9	14	51	-	2	12	11	99	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
—Fleas ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	165	-	-	15	-	-	-	-
—Other ..	3	16	49	78	17	55	66	53	337	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous ..	4	435	1262	3592	2	29	62	269	5655	3349	-	-	10	-	-	1	3
Evacuation Stores	148	132	9	857	-	1	-	-	1147	1526	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ..	186	685	1605	5235	36	190	1426	610	9973	12233	69	66	107	-	2	1	3
MILITARY UNITS																	
Vermin—Scabies	-	16	16	168	-	10	158	16	384	3332	3	46	-	-	-	-	-
—Lice ..	-	6	7	27	-	4	39	2	85	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous ..	1	61	59	719	5	21	219	54	1139	584	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ..	1	83	82	914	5	35	416	72	1608	3916	3	46	-	-	-	-	-
DORKING AND HORLEY R.D.C.																	
Infectious Diseases	2	6	20	26	-	7	13	4	78	163	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vermin ..	1	13	17	63	2	4	28	9	137	570	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous ..	-	25	8	209	-	-	6	5	253	122	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ..	3	44	45	298	2	11	47	18	468	855	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GODSTONE R.D.C.																	
Infectious Diseases	-	9	11	-	-	-	-	4	24	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vermin ..	-	40	31	170	-	4	118	34	397	805	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous ..	4	13	166	273	-	2	6	8	472	153	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ..	4	62	208	443	-	6	124	46	893	971	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

(a) Meat.

Inspection of meat at the four Government controlled slaughterhouses was carried out satisfactorily and with maximum efficiency considering the conditions under which this work has to be performed. The results of inspection are given in Tables I and II.

The following is an extract from a report submitted to the Public Health Committee by the Medical Officer of Health and Chief Sanitary Inspector on post-war reconstruction :—

“ **Public Abattoir.**

In peace-time the slaughtering in this Borough was carried out at 12 private slaughterhouses. Since 1940, the work has been controlled and carried out on behalf of the Ministry of Food in four only of the slaughterhouses. The remainder have not been used, although they have been formally licensed by the Council from year to year, in accordance with Section 57 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938.

The slaughter of animals in these premises, and the subsequent dressing and preparation of the carcasses for human consumption, cannot be considered hygienic or in any way desirable ; meat inspection cannot be as efficient as it should be. The disadvantages of the small private slaughterhouse far outweigh any advantages, and consideration should be given, when and if war-time restrictions and control are removed, to the construction of a modern public abattoir and cold stores. Such a scheme should be worked out in co-operation with the various trade interests and should form part of the general re-development to which reference has already been made.”

The Council accepted the principle of the above suggestion as one of the proposals for post-war reconstruction.

TABLE I.
CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	<i>Cattle, excluding Cows.</i>	<i>Cows.</i>	<i>Calves.</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs.</i>	<i>Pigs.</i>	<i>Bulls (included in Cattle Col.)</i>
Number killed	944	1334	3094	6003	961	123
Number inspected ..	944	1334	3094	6003	961	123
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS :—						
Whole carcasses con- demned	2	12	2	6	17	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	71	216	6	48	51	12
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ..	7.73%	17.02%	0.26%	0.90%	7.08%	10.57%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY—						
Whole carcasses con- demned	3	48	1	—	6	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	99	524	5	—	44	43
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	10.81%	42.12%	0.19%	—	5.20%	35.77%

The total weight of carcasses and offals condemned was 40 tons 7 cwts. 95 lbs.

The number of cows slaughtered included 10 which were dealt with by the Divisional Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture, under the Tuberculosis Order, and which were sent to the slaughterhouse with a view to salvaging such parts of the carcasses, etc., as were found on post-mortem inspection to be fit for human consumption.

The case of a calf found on inspection to be affected with generalised tuberculosis was referred to the Divisional Veterinary Inspector with a view to tracing the source of infection.

TABLE II.

MEAT INSPECTION—REASONS FOR CONDEMNATION.

DESCRIPTION	Number Slaughtered	Tuber- culosis.		Other Conditions.												TOTALS			
		Generalised	Localised	Swine Fever	Fevered	Dropsy and Emaciation	Paemia	Injury	Hepatitis	Distomatosis	Parasitic	Abscesses	Pleurisy	Pneumonia	Actinomycosis		Cavernous Angioma	Miscellaneous	
BOVINES—	2401	52	..	..	1	9	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	67
Whole Carcases	..	..	95	..	..	2	..	7	..	..	1	4	..	..	..	..	..	3	112
Part Carcases	..	..	277	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	5	2	6	..	..	2	285
Heads and Tongues	..	..	550	..	..	..	..	..	15	91	4	58	..	4	1	93	..	17	564
Lungs	..	..	137	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	415
Livers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
CALVES—	3094	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3
Whole Carcases	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Part Carcases	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Lungs	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Livers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
SHEEP—	6003	..	..	..	..	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	6
Whole Carcases	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Part Carcases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Lungs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	23	4	..	..	..	..	..	2	40
Livers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
PIGS—	961	6	..	..	1	6	..	2	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	1	1	23
Whole Carcases	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	14
Part Carcases	..	..	34	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	37
Heads and Tongues	..	..	22	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	1	1	9	7	..	..	..	..	40
Lungs	..	..	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	18
Livers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTALS	12459	59	1141	9	2	22	1	14	18	103	35	93	13	10	7	93	34	..	..

(b) **Other Foods.**

The following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption and disposed of accordingly.

Fresh Fish	.. .. .	28 cwts. 34 lbs.
Meat	.. .. .	11 cwts. 105 lbs.
Rabbits	.. .. .	3 cwts.
Rice, Peas and Beans	.. .. .	43 cwts. 68 lbs.
Cereals	.. .. .	11 cwts. 25 lbs.
Flour	.. .. .	4 cwts. 17 lbs.
Oranges	.. .. .	3 cwts. 75 lbs.
Tinned Fish	.. .. .	933 tins
Tinned Meat	.. .. .	1,803 tins
Tinned Milk	.. .. .	1,449 tins
Pickles	.. .. .	125 gallons
Eggs	.. .. .	465
Miscellaneous :		
Tinned Foods, etc.	.. .. .	1,429 tins, jars, etc.
Loose Foods	.. .. .	6 cwts. 104 lbs.

• This work involved 353 visits.

Most of the condemned food was utilised for the feeding of animals ; no edible food was wasted. In this connection there was the closest co-operation with the Food Executive Officer, the Divisional Food Salvage Officer of the Ministry of Food and local members of the food distributive trades.

The Register of food premises now includes the following :—

Grocers, etc.	.. .. .	94
Butchers, etc.	.. .. .	39
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	.. .. .	36
Fishmongers and Fish-fryers	.. .. .	22
Confectioners (including 25 bakehouses)	.. .. .	89
Restaurants, Cafes, etc.	.. .. .	36

In addition there are two shops in which horseflesh and other meat is sold by retail for animal feeding purposes.

Two hundred and sixty inspections were made during the year.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Renewals of annual licences were granted to 21 slaughter-men.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

The entries in the registers required to be kept in accordance with the Order may be summarised as follows :—

Cowkeepers	19
Dairymen and Retail Purveyors, with premises in the Borough	8
Retail Purveyors, with premises outside the Borough ..	3
Retail Purveyors—bottled milk only sold in general shops	5
Cowsheds	20
Dairies (including 7 milkshops)	16

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

A detailed report on 105 samples of milk taken in 1943 is given in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

During 1943, five cows from herds in the Borough were dealt with by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Diseases of Animals Acts—Disinfection.

Disinfection of vehicles continued to be carried out at the Redhill Market each Monday during the year, when 263 vehicles were dealt with.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938—Sampling.

(E. Hinks, Esq., M.B.E., B.Sc., F.I.C., Public Analyst).

Details of the samples taken and submitted to the Public Analyst during 1943 are given in the following Table :—

FOODSTUFFS.	SAMPLES TAKEN.				Total	Genuine	Adulter- ated
	<i>First quarter</i>	<i>Second quarter</i>	<i>Third quarter</i>	<i>Fourth quarter</i>			
Milk	10	4	6	6	26	24	2
Margarine	3	—	2	2	7	7	—
Butter	2	—	2	3	7	7	—
Lard	2	—	2	1	5	5	—
Rice	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
Sago	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
Fish Cakes	2	—	—	—	2	2	—
Sausages	3	6	—	6	15	15	—
Sauces	5	—	—	—	5	5	—
Jams (various)	—	1	4	—	5	5	—
Marmalade	—	—	2	—	2	1	1
Fruit pulp (various) ..	—	—	3	—	3	3	—
Beer	—	6	—	—	6	6	—
Cornflour	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
Bicarbonate of Soda ..	—	—	—	4	4	4	—
Cocoa	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
Meat Pastes (various)	—	—	—	3	3	3	—
Gelatine	—	—	—	4	4	3	1
Coffee	—	—	—	2	2	2	—
Macaroni	—	—	—	2	2	2	—
Total ..	29	17	21	35	102	98	4

One of the milk samples was reported as containing 3 per cent. of added water. After investigation, the dairyman concerned was cautioned, and advised to exercise closer supervision over the washing of bottles.

The other milk sample adversely reported on was deficient in milk fat to the extent of 3 per cent. In this case, also, the retailer was cautioned.

A sample of marmalade manufactured locally by a wholesale and retail fruiterer contained an excess of sulphur dioxide. This was found to be caused by insufficient boiling of the original fruit pulp used in the manufacture, thus failing to reduce the amount of the preservative to the legal maximum. Suitable advice led to a proper amendment of the process.

A sample of gelatine, purchased informally towards the end of the year, contained $3\frac{1}{2}$ parts per million of arsenic (arsenious oxide) and zinc to the extent of 275 p.p.m., proportions which the Public Analyst considered to be excessive. This sample was followed up by a formal sample taken in 1944.

Factories Act, 1937.

During 1943, 47 inspections were made. Three lists of out-workers were received, affecting three persons. Five inspections were made in company with an officer of the National Fire Service, in connection with Section 34 (Means of Escape in Case of Fire) ; five certificates were issued by the Council, in accordance with that Section.

Complaints.

The following is a summary of the complaints received during the year. As a result of the investigations and inspections which were made when dealing with them, 126 houses were inspected and notices were served on the owners calling for repairs of the more serious defects.

Insanitary condition of premises	..	..	..	41
House drainage	..	..	..	6
Defective dustbins	..	..	..	1
Non-removal of house refuse	..	..	..	19
Non-removal of trade refuse	..	..	..	1
Overcrowding	..	..	..	2
Rats or mice	..	..	..	229
Smells emanating from sewers and street gullies			..	1
Cesspool emptying	..	..	..	1
Vermin	..	..	..	28
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	58
Total				387

Notices Issued and Action taken.

The following Table is a statement of notices dealt with during the year :—

	<i>Preliminary.</i>	<i>Statutory.</i>
Outstanding on 1st January, 1943	.. 138	Nil
Issued during year	.. 137	Nil
Complied with during year	.. 144	Nil
Withdrawn	.. *81	Nil
Outstanding on 31st December, 1943	50	Nil

* Housing notices issued before the war, which could not be enforced owing to shortage of labour and material. The majority were partly complied with, but in many cases the houses concerned would now, on re-inspection, shew additional defects ; a few have also been damaged by enemy action. The records have, therefore, been suitably endorsed, so that as soon as the time is opportune, re-inspections can be made and amended notices issued.

Nuisances Abated, Defects Remedied, etc.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year in consequence of the service of notices calling for the abatement of nuisances, or the remedying of defects found during housing inspections. The list also includes drainage works supervised following notice by builders of intention to reconstruct or repair existing drains.

Drains examined and tested (primary inspections only) ..	9
Drains relaid	6
New lengths drain laid	3
Blocked drains cleared	6
Interceptors fixed	—
New soil and vent pipes fixed	—
Soil and vent pipes renewed	1
Drain ventilation improved	—
New W.C.'s installed	3
W.C. apparatus renewed or repaired	10
W.C. flushing cisterns ditto	—
Hand-flushed W.C.'s provided with flushing apparatus ..	1
Cesspools provided or enlarged	1
„ repaired or renewed	1
„ abolished	—
Existing house drains connected to public sewer ..	—
Cesspools cleansed	—
New lavatory basins installed	—
Lavatory basins renewed	—
Sinks renewed or repaired	3
Waste pipes trapped or repaired	4
Sink gully dishings repaired	—
Pail closets abolished	—
Urinals reconstructed	—
Urinals cleansed	—
Sanitary dustbins provided	19
Leaky roofs repaired	5
Eaves gutters and stack pipes repaired	8
Back yards paved or repaired	4
Dampness remedied	28
Damp-proof courses provided	—
Pointing, or otherwise weatherproofing of brickwork (houses)	—
Ventilation and light of rooms improved	3
„ „ „ „ W.C. chambers improved ..	2

Public Water Supply laid on to houses	..	..	—
„ „ „ re-instated	..	..	—
Water supply pipes repaired	..	..	1
„ „ „ improved	..	..	—
Sub-floor ventilation improved	..	..	—
External paintwork of houses renewed	..	..	—
Internal paintwork of rooms renewed	..	..	—
Rooms cleansed	..	..	49
Ceilings cleansed	..	..	43
W.C. chambers cleansed	..	..	6
Cellars cleansed	..	..	—
Floors repaired or renewed	..	..	12
Plastering of walls and ceilings repaired	..	..	27
Window frames or sashcords repaired	..	..	8
Doors repaired or renewed	..	..	3
Fireplaces renewed or repaired	..	..	14
Coppers renewed or repaired	..	..	1
Washing accommodation provided	..	..	—
Food-stores provided	..	..	—
Overcrowding suppressed	..	..	—
Manure receptacles renewed or repaired	..	..	1
Accumulations removed	..	..	5
Animals or poultry improperly kept	..	..	—
Other nuisances abated	..	..	2

Fifty-three premises were visited on the application of builders for certificates to enable them to obtain timber for floor and other repairs. Forty certificates, involving 53 premises, were issued for transmission to the Ministry of Supply (Timber Control). The certificates stated that the repairs were necessary in the interests of public health, and that the amount of timber for which application was made was the minimum required for the repairs specified. As the defects to be remedied were, in most cases, caused by dry rot the work was, whenever possible, carried out under close supervision, so that proper remedial measures could be put in hand for removing infected material and preventing the new timber from becoming infected.

Mosquito Control.

The practice, commenced in 1942, of making periodical inspections of static water tanks constructed for fire fighting purposes was continued in 1943. Of 19 tanks inspected, three were found at the end of May to contain mosquito larvae. Larvicidal treat-

ment was applied by members of the National Fire Service, who continued appropriate control measures throughout the season.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

Infestation Order, 1943.

The above-named Order was made in 1943 by the Minister of Food under Defence Regulations. In May, 1943, the Director of Infestation Control, Ministry of Food, using the powers conferred by the Order, formulated a rat control scheme for the London area and certain adjoining districts, including the Borough of Reigate. The scheme sought to institute a planned, concerted and sustained attack on the rat population of the area, with the main object of preventing damage to our food supplies. The Local Authorities concerned were given a Direction by the Minister of Food, in accordance with Article 5 of the Order, to report on the extent of infestation in their districts, and particularly, in the first instance, on "major" infestations. A widespread publicity campaign was inaugurated throughout the area in October, when the public was asked, by press notices, posters, etc., to inform local public health departments of all known or suspected sources of rodent infestations. Sixty-two reports were received as a result of this campaign.

The Ministry of Food was informed of the extent of infestation in the Borough, as shown by the result of the publicity campaign and the information already in possession of the Department. It was pointed out to the Minister that, due to the active interest taken in this subject in the past by the Borough Council, particularly since 1935, when a whole-time officer was appointed for rodent control work, the only infestation which could be considered of a major or heavy character was on land and premises which comprise the Council's refuse disposal and sewage treatment works, and that this infestation was continually under attack.

Immediately following the publicity campaign, the reports received were investigated and the work of destruction put in hand. Additional labour was obtained by arrangement with the Borough Surveyor, who made available for this work each day three of the whole-time Civil Defence personnel. These men worked under the supervision of the Assistant Rat Officer, who had previously undergone a short course of instruction at the Ministry of Food's Infestation Branch in the technique of rodent control which the Ministry desired should be adopted in its campaign.

The results of the year's work are shown in the appended Tables. In Table I, the 229 premises visited were those about which complaints or reports were received, or were known to be infested. Table II shows the methods used in dealing with infestations. It should be noted that the method advocated by the Ministry is "pre-baiting and poisoning," which, in fact, has been extensively adopted since November, 1943, with considerable success. Prior to that date, the Assistant Rat Officer was successful with other methods, particularly with dogs and ferrets, and still uses them in suitable circumstances, with excellent results. In the comparatively small number of infestations dealt with towards the end of the year, it is satisfactory to note in Table III that there was a considerable "take" of poisoned bait at the site of the major infestation, and a high proportion of complete clearances at other premises where the Ministry's poisoning technique was employed.

TABLE I.

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED AND INVESTIGATED DURING
1943.

<i>Type of Premises or Land.</i>	<i>Found to be infested by</i>		<i>Not Infested.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
	<i>Rats.</i>	<i>Mice.</i>		
(1) Dwelling-houses	137	16	45	198
(2) Food Stores, Shops, &c.	14	1	—	15
(3) Business Premises (other than those included in (2) above).	1	5	4	10
(4) Agricultural	6	—	—	6
Total	158	22	49	229*

* Includes 62 reports received as a result of Ministry of Food
Publicity Campaign, October/November, 1943.

TABLE II.
NUMBER OF INFESTATIONS CLEARED DURING 1943 BY

(a) ASSISTANT RAT OFFICER.
(b) OCCUPIERS.

TYPE OF PREMISES.	METHODS USED.								TOTAL.		
	Pre-baiting and poison (a)	Poison.		Traps.		Dogs & ferrets (a)	Dogs, ferrets and gas (a)	(a) A.R.O. Rats	(a) A.R.O. Mice	(b) Rats	(b) Occ. Mice
		(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)						
(1) Dwelling-houses .. (i) Rats (ii) Mice	A.R.O. 8 —	A.R.O. 6 1	Occ. 10 1	A.R.O. 2 6	Occ. 7 7	A.R.O. 29 —	A.R.O. 15 —	60 —	— 7	17 —	— 8
(2) Food Stores, Shops, &c. (i) Rats (ii) Mice	3 —	— —	1 —	2 2	— —	3 —	1 —	9 —	— 2	1 —	— —
(3) Business Premises (other than those included in (2) above) .. (i) Rats (ii) Mice	1 —	2 —	— —	— 3	— 2	2 —	— —	5 —	— 3	— —	— 2
(4) Agricultural .. Rats	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	4	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	12	9	12	15	16	37	17	78*	12	18	10

* Does not include work of destruction at Corporation premises, 2 Institutions under contract, and assistance given to Military Authorities at 3 properties. Includes 11 dwelling-houses and 2 Food premises which became re-infested and were again cleared. Total numbers also include some infestations brought forward from 1942.

TABLE III.

SUMMARY OF INFESTATIONS DEALT WITH BY PRE-BAITING AND POISONING, FROM 15TH NOVEMBER TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1943, FOLLOWING MINISTRY OF FOOD PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN.

Register Number.	Type of Premises.	Pre-baiting Material.	Amount (in ounces)*		Poison.	Amount (in ounces)*		Remarks.
			Laid.	Consumed.		Laid.	Consumed.	
Major Infestation	Refuse Disposal and Sewage Disposal Works ..	(a) Soaked wheat ..	3,718	3,522	(a) Zinc phosphide ..	403	352	Results satisfactory, but premises not cleared. Poisoning completed, 1.12.43.
		(b) Bread mash ..	1,818	1,646	(b) Barium carbonate ..	384	256	
71	Food ..	Sausage rusk ..	344	336	Zinc phosphide	60	22	Results satisfactory.
101A	Dwelling-house	Sausage rusk ..	36	36	Arsenic ..	8	6	Cleared—proved by post baiting.
181A	Food ..	Bread mash ..	408	312	Barium carbonate.	160	64	ditto
196	Dwelling-house	Sausage rusk ..	82	82	Zinc phosphide	18	4	ditto
203	Dwelling-house	Sausage rusk ..	40	36	Zinc phosphide	12	4	ditto
204	Dwelling-house	Sausage rusk ..	16	16	Zinc phosphide	4	1	ditto
212 & 218	ditto (2)	Sausage rusk ..	28	28	Zinc phosphide	8	4	ditto
222A	Business	Sausage rusk ..	68	68	Zinc phosphide	20	8	ditto
233	Dwelling-house	Sausage rusk ..	32	32	Arsenic ..	8	1	ditto
249	Food ..	Sausage rusk ..	120	120	Zinc phosphide	24	12	ditto
265	Dwelling-house	Bread mash ..	18	18	Arsenic ..	4	1	ditto
TOTAL, ..			6,728	6,252	TOTAL, ..	1,113	735	

* Weights are approximate.

TABLE IV.
INFESTATIONS NOT CLEARED AND OUTSTANDING AT
31.12.43.

<i>Type of Premises.</i>	<i>Infested by</i>	
	<i>Rats.</i>	<i>Mice.</i>
(1) Dwelling-houses	61	3
(2) Food Stores, Shops, &c.	4	1
(3) Business Premises (other than those included in (2) above)	2	1
(4) Agricultural	2	—
Total	69	5

By arrangement with the Public Assistance Committee fortnightly visits of inspection continued to be made to St. Anne's Institution. A similar arrangement, which operated from 1st July, 1943, was made in respect of the Surrey County Hospital St. John's, Redhill.

Public Mortuaries.

During the year bodies have been deposited at the Mortuaries for the following purposes :—

	<i>Post-mortem examination and Inquest.</i>	<i>Inquest.</i>	<i>Post-mortem examination.</i>	<i>Convenience</i>
Reigate	—	—	39	2
Merstham	1	—	—	—

Legal Proceedings.

<i>Nature of Offence.</i>	<i>Date of Information.</i>	<i>Date of Hearing.</i>	<i>Result.</i>
Selling milk with 2%, 4% and 23% added water. (Sections 3 and 24, Food and Drugs Act, 1938).	11.1.43	28.1.43	Dismissed Defendant awarded £3 3s. 0d costs.